

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow are intended to impart precision to the claims, and more particularly point out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-32 and 34-42 have been rejected. Claims 5, 19 and 33 have been objected to. Claims 1, 3, 15, 17, 29, and 31 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 5, 19, and 33 have been canceled.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 3, 17 and 31 under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 3, 17, and 31 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-32 and 34-42 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawabata et al., U.S. Pat. Application Pub. No. 2005/0044246 (hereinafter "Kawabata") in view of Bates et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,184,886 (hereinafter "Bates").

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 19 and 33 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant amended independent claims 1, 15, and 29 to include the allowable limitations as set forth in dependent claims 5, 19, and 33, respectively. As a result, independent claims 1, 15, and 29 should be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been addressed and that the application is now in order for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2638 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 22, 2009

/John P. Ward/
John P. Ward
Reg. No. 40,216

Customer Number 64494
GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP
(650) 328-8500 Telephone
(650) 328-8508 Facsimile